

PSIA R&D Coordinating Committee Quarterly Meeting

MMS Atrium Building, Herndon, VA

August 11, 2004, 9:00 am – 1:00pm

Attendees:

DOE/FE: Christopher Freitas

DOT/OPS: Jim Merritt and Bob Smith

DOC/NIST: Frank Gayle and Richard Ricker

TLW: Ted Willke

DOI/MMS: Bud Danenberger, Sharon Buffington, Michael Else, Julie McNeil, and Matt Quinney

Agenda Items

- Pipeline R&D Forum - ALL
- 5-yr Interagency R&D Program Plan for Pipeline Safety and Integrity – DOT
- Joint Field Demonstration Test (Advanced Leak Detection), Natural Gas - DOE
- Action Items from May 19, 2004 Meeting - ALL

Meeting Summary

Pipeline R&D Forum

- Concern was expressed that we make our intentions clear to industry and to upper management, that the upcoming R&D forum is structured as a joint forum between Industry and the Federal Government as opposed to last year's forum which was primarily for Industry.
 - DOE stated that their management will not commit to the forum if not a joint venture.
 - DOE wants to address PSIA Policy at Forum.
 - DOE wants to be cautious that this Forum not result in Industry dictating how Govt. spends our research dollars.
 - Our next telecom with Industry needs to address the forum and spell out joint agenda.
 - DOT will send our govt. generated agenda to the R&D Forum group.
 - DOT to send C. Freitas a copy of the 8/3/04 email issued by B. Smith.
- We need to bring Industry into the planning phase soon to gain buy-in on the idea of the joint Industry/Govt. forum and to help plan/organize the event.

5 Year R&D Plan

- DOT passed out the 5-yr plan signed by Norman Mineta on July 15, 2004 and forwarded to Congress that same day. Group discussed need to modify plan for upcoming 5-yr period.
 - DOT will send out a new email regarding the modification of the plan and include information on the R&D Forum and joint research projects/efforts.
 - The next plan is due to Congress on December 17, 2004; therefore DOT intends to provide OMB with a final version by late October.
- DOT will resend the 7/19/04 email containing the electronic 5-yr plan.

DOE Joint Field Demonstration

- There are two DOE demonstrations taking place during the week of 9/12/04.

- The first demonstration, administered by Southwest Research, takes place near Casper, WY from 9/13/04 - 9/17/04 and will focus on fly-over detection of simulated gas pipeline leaks using compressed (bottled) gas discharge both above and below ground. DOE expects ground based detection systems to participate as well.
 - DOE to provide information (i.e., schedule, location, lodging arrangements, etc.) to the PSIA committee ASAP to assist those planning to observe the demonstrations as well as for those interested but not necessarily attending.
- The second demonstration, administered by Battelle, takes place at their Columbus, OH facility and will focus on internal pipeline inspection.

Open Discussion

- Committee discussed the importance of bringing the standards group into our discussion early to help move the research forward more quickly and constructively.
 - Discussed the standards process and technology transfer.
 - The committee should work collectively to “close the loop” between research planning and performance and use (i.e., by Industry through standards organizations).
 - NIST will look internally to determine the limits, if any, that it may have in helping move joint research from the proposal stage to a standard.
 - o NIST is set up to take a problem brought to them and work it toward resolution.
 - NIST will create a structure of their process for the Committee to review.
 - All agreed that Industry needs to become involved early when developing standards.
 - NIST will look at Table II of 5-year plan (and MOU as well) to determine how their personnel (either experienced or trained/educated to gained the experience) can or should apply their skills to the relationship of the objectives and help lead the research to development of a standard, for example:
 - o what is the role of NIST with regard to each objective and
 - o what priority would the research be for NIST.
- Joint Presentation
 - Response to updating the Joint Presentation has been weak.
 - Each agency agreed to review and provide viewgraphs for their portion of the joint presentation to Bob Smith of DOT.
 - DOT will resend the draft joint presentation to committee and set a new due date for updates to be sent back to DOT.
- Monthly Calendar
 - Each agency to review calendar and provide updates to Bob Smith of DOT.
 - DOT will resend draft calendar.
- Joint Solicitation Flowchart
 - Each agency to review joint solicitation flowchart and identify procurement issues, problem/solution areas, and consider how we can make this joint solicitation work.
 - MMS to provide copy of JOFOC (2-pg doc) to committee showing MMS’s method for justifying unsolicited sole source proposal.
 - Discussion was held that a joint solicitation/research may be achieved by:
 - o funding/assigning individual tasks and/or projects to each agency and share the administration/results.
 - o set the broad agency announcement to recognize the worst case scenario (i.e., DOT’s 50% non-Govt funding) for each agency.
 - o Start the joint solicitation process on a smaller scale with a token portion (i.e. 10 – 30% of annual research budget) of each agency.
 - DOT to host the next meeting in November. Date, time, & location TBD by DOT.

Action Items

- DOT will send the govt. generated agenda to the R&D Forum group.
- DOT to send C. Freitas a copy of the 8/3/04 email issued by B. Smith.
- DOT will send out a new email regarding the modification of the 5-yr plan and include information on the R&D Forum and joint research projects/efforts.
- DOT will resend the 7/19/04 email containing the electronic 5-yr plan.
- DOE to provide information (i.e., schedule, location, lodging arrangements, etc.) to the PSIA committee ASAP to assist those planning to observe the demonstrations as well as for those interested but not necessarily attending.
- NIST will look internally to determine the limits, if any, that it may have in helping move joint research from the proposal stage to a standard.
- NIST will create a structure of their process for the Committee to review.
 - NIST will look at Table II of 5-year plan (and MOU as well) to determine how their personnel (either experienced or trained/educated to gained the experience) can or should apply their skills to the relationship of the objectives and help lead the research to development of a standard, for example:
 - o what is the role of NIST with regard to each objective and
 - o what priority would the research be for NIST
- Each agency agreed to review and provide viewgraphs for their portion of the joint presentation to Bob Smith of DOT.
- DOT will resend the draft joint presentation to committee reps and set a new response date.
- Each agency to review calendar and provide updates to Bob Smith of DOT.
- DOT will resend draft calendar for periodic update.
- Each agency to review joint solicitation flowchart and identify procurement issues, problem/solution areas, and consider how we can make this joint solicitation work.
- MMS to provide copy of JOFOC (2-pg doc) to committee showing MMS's method for justifying unsolicited (incl. sole-source) proposals.
- DOT to host the next meeting in November. Date, time, & location TBD by DOT.